

#1

COMPLETE

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Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please provide comment on the proposal for the 2023 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis.

1. Allow the use of elk management tools within the DSA and in other specific areas where brucellosis-exposed elk have been confirmed. THIS IS TOO VAGUE. I WOULD NOT WANT TO EXTERMINATE LARGE ELK POPULATIONS BECAUSE OF A BRUCELLOSIS OUTBREAK. INSTEAD, I WOULD RESERVE THE FENCING FUNDS FOR SUCH AREAS. I WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE USE OF BLOCK MANAGEMENT PERMITS TO REDUCE ELK NUMBERS IN AREAS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFLICTS.
2. Add the exploration of new hazing techniques based on the efficacy of past efforts and new research findings. New hazing techniques could include the use of drones, dogs, remote cameras that alert landowners to elk presence, hazing even when elk are not present, or hazing at night. The work group recommends implementing at least one new technique in 2023 followed by an analysis of efficacy. I AM WORRIED THAT SUCH HAZING COULD STRESS ELK AND INCREASE RATES OF MORTALITY. LEGALIZATION OF HAZING COULD ALSO REDUCE THE INCENTIVE FOR ALLOWING HUNTING TO BETTER CONTROL POPULATIONS.
3. Add the expanded opportunity to use fencing that reduces the ability for elk to cross into or use high-risk areas, such as calving pastures. This fencing was previously authorized for use only in the Paradise Valley. AGREE, BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE FENCE ONLY BE ERECTED DURING TIMES WHEN IT DOES NOT AFFECT THE ELK POPULATION. IT SHOULD NOT RESTRICT MIGRATION, ACCESS TO NECESSARY WINTER GRAZING, OR ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BIRTH RATE AND RECRUITMENT OF ELK.
4. Add the target of implementing at least one habitat manipulation project that encourages elk to stay away from high-risk areas in 2023 followed by an analysis of efficacy. AGREE.
5. Remove the annual cap of \$2,500 per landowner for fencing material. FENCE FUNDING SHOULD ONLY BE PROVIDED FOR AREAS WITH SEVERE BRUCELLOSIS OUTBREAKS. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDITIONAL FUNDS PROVIDED FOR MAKING FENCES EASIER TO CROSS BY ANTELOPE AND YOUNG CERVIDS.

FINAL THOUGHTS: ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS TO THE ELK POPULATIONS SHOULD BE OFFSET BY POSITIVE ONES. IF YOU CLOSE ACREAGE TO ELK, THEN CLOSE ACREAGE TO CATTLE OR PROVIDE OTHER METHODS TO REDUCE CHANCES THAT THE OVERALL ELK POPULATION WILL BE REDUCED.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY FEEDBACK.

#2

COMPLETE

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Q1

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Q2

Please provide comment on the proposal for the 2023 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis.

FWP needs to utilize the services of the Montana Extension Service Wildlife management specialist AND poly wire is an effective deterrent IF it is coated with molasses.
